Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines have lost 20% of traffic with the induction of private airlines in Indian airspace;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures of air traffic handled by IA during 1992, 1993 and 1994 till June 3, 1994; and

(c) what steps have been or are being taken to make good the loss?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines carried 80.54 lakhs passengers in 1992, 67.45 lakhs in 1993 and 35.93 lakhs during the period January to June, 1994 in the domestic sectors.

(c) Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to retain its passengers:—

(i) Product Improvements

— Improvements in service both on ground and on board.

— Improvement in passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class ofA-300.

— Introduction of Business Class in A-320 aircraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies

— Incentives/concessions introduced for customers and agents.

— Setting up of sales Forces to generate more business.

(Hi) Organisational Improvements

— Changes in the organisational structure and systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.

— Closer consultation with the employee Unions/Associations to foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

(iv) Increased International operations to usefully deploy available capacity.

(v) Tie up with Air India in several areas, like joint venture operations in the gulf countries, hub and spoke operations, frequent flier scheme.

IGI Airport as Gateway to India

3098. SHRI K. M. KHAN:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether government plans to convert I.G.I. Airport into a "Gateway Port" in a big way allowing transhipment of goods coming from abroad or from within the country to any destination outside the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with the additional Cargo business potential etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Ithas been recently decided to allow transhipment facility at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi for the free movement of goods, without payment of duty, when imported for transhipment to other destination outside India or to any other in-land sea-port/land customs station appointed under Section-7 of the Customs Act, 1962. This facility would help in generating additional cargo business. However, it is not possible at this stage to quantify the excess revenue likely to be generated.

Tourism Projects in Karnataka and Punjab

3099. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: "i

(a) what are the details of tourism projects sanctioned by the Union of India for Kamataka for the year 1994-95;

(b) whether there is any proposal received from the State of Punjab in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to clear the said proposal of the Punjab State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Two proposals for construction of Yatri Niwases at Gulberga and Dharwardhave recently been received from the State Government of Karnataka.

(b) No proposal has been received from the State of Punjab for central assistance for the year 1994-95.

(c) and (d) do not arise.

Expert Committee on Aviation Sector

3100. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee has gone into the capacity required in the aviation sector in India;

(b) when this Expert committee submitted its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that this Committee advised against the acquisition of any more planes for Indian Airlines; and

(d) what recommendations of this Expert Committee have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee submitted its report in March, 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The various aspects of the report are being examined by the operators and regulatory authorities.

Cheffair air Catering Services

3101. SHRI RAI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of the Cheffair Air Catering Services, a unit of the Hotel Corporation of India are agitating since long;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Union Leaders are on relay hunger strike since long;

(c) if so, what are their demands;

(d) whether it is a fact that the pay and perks of the officers have been increased manifold whereas the employees have not been given due increase; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter so that the unit's work does not suffer and the unit start earning more profits?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Union Category employees of Cheffair flight kitchen, Delhi which is a unit of Hotel Corporation of India had been agitating for wage raise since 31.5.1994. the Union wanted a wage rise of the order of Rs. 400 /- p.m. This could not be agreed to by the management. Therefore, the employees were on agitation.

Wage increases to employees in Public Sector are negotiated on the basis of the guidelines of the DPE and there is no direct linkage between the pay revision for Officer category and Union category employees.

It has been reported that the agitating employees have since agreed to a wage settlement after further negotiations with the Management.

Aircraft with Indian Airlines

3102. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: